



DEERFIELD

Franklin County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Deerfield is an historic rural suburban center on the primary corridor between Northampton and Greenfield in the Connecticut River Valley. It was the earliest community settled in Franklin County. Because of its strategic location, the town was subjected to repeated attacks from French and Indian forces through the early 18th century and was actually abandoned during King Philip's war. In 1704, a combined French and Indian force attacked the town, which then consisted of 250 residents and about 15-20 colonial soldiers. Forty-seven residents were killed and 112 were captured and taken to Canada. An outstanding collection of houses survives from this period, some preserving the hatchet and bullet scars from the battle.

The early Deerfield economy was built on tobacco and cucumbers, pickle factories and the manufacture of pocketbooks, but a major economic force in the community has been the private schools. Deerfield is host to Deerfield Academy, the Eaglebrook School and the Bement School. The town is also the site of a major craft fair each year which brings in over 250 selected exhibitors and is considered to be one of the most important craft fairs in the northeast. The town's museum offers 19 exhibit rooms and many concerts throughout the season. Visitors are able to tour 13 of the historic residences in the town.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Greenfield on the north, the Connecticut River on the east, Montague and Sunderland, Whatley on the south, and Conway and Shelburne on the west. Deerfield is 8 miles from Greenfield, 12 miles from Northampton, 48 miles from North Adams, 99 miles from Boston, 162 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 33.36 sq. miles

Land Area: 32.30 sq. miles

Population: 5,018

Density: 155 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Amherst Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.9°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Greenfield, Shelburne Falls, Mt. Toby, Willamsburg

Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 665-2130

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1673

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,855		
Democrats	781	27.4	%
Republicans	362	12.7	%
Other parties	2	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,710	59.9	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Deerfield town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	4,750	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	4,750	100.0
Male.....	2,339	49.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	74	1.6
Female.....	2,411	50.8	Mexican.....	18	0.4
Under 5 years.....	299	5.0	Puerto Rican.....	15	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	277	5.8	Cuban.....	1	-
10 to 14 years.....	356	7.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	40	0.8
15 to 19 years.....	282	5.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	4,676	98.4
20 to 24 years.....	185	3.9	White alone.....	4,570	96.2
25 to 34 years.....	545	11.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	819	17.2	Total population.....	4,750	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	877	18.5	In households.....	4,736	99.7
55 to 59 years.....	305	6.4	Householder.....	1,965	41.4
60 to 64 years.....	211	4.4	Spouse.....	1,078	22.7
65 to 74 years.....	326	6.9	Child.....	1,303	27.4
75 to 84 years.....	259	5.5	Own child under 18 years.....	1,004	21.1
85 years and over.....	69	1.5	Other relatives.....	134	2.8
Median age (years).....	41.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	40	0.8
18 years and over.....	3,683	77.5	Nonrelatives.....	256	5.4
Male.....	1,781	37.5	Unmarried partner.....	124	2.6
Female.....	1,902	40.0	In group quarters.....	14	0.3
21 years and over.....	3,566	75.1	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	777	16.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	14	0.3
65 years and over.....	654	13.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	267	5.6	Total households.....	1,965	100.0
Female.....	387	8.1	Family households (families).....	1,310	66.7
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	558	28.4
One race.....	4,711	99.2	Married-couple family.....	1,078	54.9
White.....	4,619	97.2	With own children under 18 years.....	439	22.3
Black or African American.....	23	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	166	8.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	91	4.6
Asian.....	41	0.9	Nonfamily households.....	655	33.3
Asian Indian.....	3	0.1	Householder living alone.....	513	26.1
Chinese.....	34	0.7	Householder 65 years and over.....	183	9.3
Filipino.....	2	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	593	30.2
Japanese.....	2	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	470	23.9
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.41	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.92	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	2,060	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,965	95.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	95	4.6
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	15	0.7
Some other race.....	23	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	39	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.1	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	1,965	100.0
White.....	4,655	98.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,466	74.6
Black or African American.....	33	0.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	499	25.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	22	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.57	(X)
Asian.....	51	1.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.95	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	29	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County where Deerfield is located are Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, and I-91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) lines parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion.

Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate Route 91, U.S. Route 5, and State Route 116.

Rail

The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Deerfield is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). FRTA provides fixed route service between Deerfield and Greenfield when Deerfield Academy is in session. It also provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Greenfield-Montague Transit Authority (GMTA). Peter Pan Bus Lines provides service to Boston via Amherst, Springfield, and Worcester.

Other

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in Montague, is easily accessible. It has a 3,013'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.

Commuting to Work (Means of Transportation to Work, Travel Time) [U.S. Census Bureau Tables](#)

LAND USE CLASSIFICATION

* (Office of Environmental Affairs 1985)

	Acres	
Residential	1,334	6.2%
Commercial	41	0.2%
Industrial	126	0.6%
Transportation	453	2.1%
Agriculture	5,175	24.2%
Urban Open Land	156	0.7%
Recreation	118	0.6%
Water	593	2.8%
Other	13,393	62.6%

* Cape Cod communities updated 1992

ZONING REGULATIONS

(Supplied by community 1993)

Single Two Multi

Minimum lot size (sf)	Family 12,000- 40,000	Family 40,000- 60,000	Family 2 family minimum +10% increase per d.u.
Minimum lot width or frontage (ft)	100-200	150-250	+ 50 per d.u.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

(Supplied by community 1993)

Comprehensive Plans	No
Rent Control	No
Condominium Controls	Yes
Groundwater Protection	Yes
Subdivision Control Laws	Yes
Site Plan Approval Required	Yes
Other Growth Limits	No

CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Charles P. Russell Gallery

Reed Art Center, Deerfield Academy

(413) 772-0241

Historic Deerfield

The Street

(413) 774-5581

Indian House Memorial

Main Street

(413) 772-0845

Memorial Hall Museum, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Assn.

Memorial Street

(413) 774-7476

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Deerfield Academy Infirmary

Long Term Care

Hillside Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

WELFARE ASSISTANCE

(Department of Public Welfare 1994)

	Cases
Cash Assistance	
Refugee Assistance	0
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Aged	16
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	16
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Disabled	33
Emergency Aid (formerly General Relief)	9
Medicaid Only	
Aged	7
Families	11
Disabled	9
Children	0
Food Stamps Only	28
Total	129

DPW caseloads are compiled by zip code. The cases shown are for the zip code(s) in which the community is located, and may include cases for other communities with the same code.

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.